



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC-NORTH MAN SENTENCED FOR BRIBERY IN ROCKHURST CONTRACTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to bribe a former director of physical plant at Rockhurst University in order to receive nearly \$1 million in contracts for demolition and asbestos removal.

Charles A. Cacioppo, Jr., 52, of Kansas City-North, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to one year and eight months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Cacioppo** to pay \$49,500 in restitution to Rockhurst.

On June 1, 2004, **Cacioppo** pleaded guilty to conspiracy, bribery and mail fraud. **Cacioppo** admitted that he paid bribes to **Ralph E. Dunn**, 65, of Niceville, Fla., the former director of physical plant at Rockhurst University, a Jesuit university at 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, Mo.

On Nov. 30, 2004, **Dunn** was sentenced one year and one day in federal prison without parole and ordered to pay \$147,884 in restitution to Rockhurst.

Graves explained that **Cacioppo** and **Dunn** participated in a bribery conspiracy that involved contracts awarded by Rockhurst University to Industrial Salvage and Wrecking, Inc. (ISW), which is owned by **Cacioppo**, and to Industrial Environmental Management, Inc. (IEM), which is co-owned by **Cacioppo**. ISW and IEM would submit invoices to Rockhurst charging more than the value of the work performed, Graves explained, and charging Rockhurst for projects that were never performed. **Cacioppo** bribed **Dunn** in order to receive various demolition and asbestos abatement projects.

From May 1998 to June 2001, ISW and IEM received over \$1 million in payments from Rockhurst. At today's sentencing hearing, the court found that **Cacioppo** paid approximately

\$49,500 in bribes to **Dunn**.

Cacioppo pleaded guilty to 16 counts of bribery, admitting that he paid 16 separate bribes to **Dunn** in the course of the conspiracy, ranging from \$1,500 to \$12,000. Those bribes were for demolition and other work done at several properties owned by Rockhurst, as well as work done at Xavier and Loyola dormitories, at Masseman Hall and Cochran Hall, and a football field between 53rd and 54th streets in Kansas City, Mo.

Cacioppo pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud. He admitted that, as part of that conspiracy, he caused a letter to be mailed from ISW to Rockhurst University, concerning the demolition of a building located at 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, Mo. **Cacioppo**, mailed a \$2,000 cashier's check to **Dunn** as the final payment in the fraud scheme.

On June 16, 2004, **Cacioppo** was convicted by a federal jury of mail fraud. As part of the scheme with **Dunn** to defraud Rockhurst, Graves explained, **Cacioppo** mailed a letter to Rockhurst on May 18, 1999, concerning the demolition of a building located at 1100 Rockhurst Road in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul S. Becker and Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Labor – Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow